



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

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It's Almost Spring!

Finally! Spring is almost here and with it comes our usual flurry of activity. There are so many plans in the works for educational programs, volunteer classes, activities, and of course, more upgrades!

But first, we'll take a time out. For the second time in just a few short months we have to say goodbye to another volunteer and friend, Steve Mohan, who passed away in January. We have some thoughts about Steve on page 5 and information on a memorial bench and tree to be planted in Steve's honor.

In our Volunteer's Corner, Denise will fill us all in on the Volunteer Gardening Series classes scheduled for this year (page 2) and we'll talk about ways to volunteer in the coming months (page 3). On page 6 we will say hello to the Arboretum's new AmeriCorps Educator, Nichole Tracey, in our Meet the Staff.

Also there are more upgrades to the Arboretum's hardscape (page 4) and we will check out Evans Creek bridge for some Spring activity in our Interesting Spots. (page 8).

Join us as we greet the warmer days.

Bev Treadway, Editor

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Volunteer's Corner

Volunteer Training Starts April 8th

By Denise Evans

It sure hasn't felt like February with this abundance of spring-like weather! But on the bright side, it has been nice to see so many of your friendly faces during a time of year where we are usually hibernating. And I don't think I'm alone in thinking that the Arboretum looks pretty amazing. We sure are off to a great start!

Regarding horticulture training in 2020, Bill and I recently sat down to finalize a plan. As you may remember, we decided to take a break last year from our annual 3 week long new volunteer training in favor of one class per month. In addition, we started a mentoring program where one of our veteran volunteers was paired up with a newbie. I am happy to report we are pleased with this new approach. All volunteers, regardless of how long they've been with us, seemed to enjoy the monthly classes and the more in-depth hands on component was a hit. I couldn't help but notice Bill seemed to really be enjoying the hands on component too! The mentoring program also appeared to be much more effective in helping our new volunteers settle in. I am so grateful to those who stepped up to help with it.

So as a result, we will be following a very similar program this year with the addition of some supplemental promotion to get new volunteers through the door. You will be seeing some repeat classes from last year since we'd like new volunteers to have a chance to experience them, but you are all more than welcome to join us again. We will continue with the same schedule, the second Wednesday of the month from 10am-12pm in the Ranch House. The series will kick off on Wednesday, April 8th with Fundamentals of Rose Care and Pruning. Stay tuned for a complete schedule and please invite your friends!



Looking back on a fun-filled volunteer group project with Danny, Nancy, and Steve in the Labyrinth Garden.

Volunteer's Corner

Program Updates

By Bev Treadway

Good Nature Walks are gearing up for the spring. In March, we have two walks by Rod Haulenbeek featuring **The Naked Truth About Trees**. Rod, The Tree Hunter is always entertaining, so it should be a fun talk. In April, Connie Osburn is doing an intro to birdwatching in **Feathered Friends** on the 7th. Bring your binoculars and Connie will help you get focused.

A note about Good Nature. Because the Good Nature walks and events have been popular with adults of all ages and not just the seniors, the name "Good Nature" will now be the title for all of our "open to the public" adult education events and walks.

Little Sprouts is expanding! This 2-5-year-old children's program has had a regular waiting list since it was started in 2017 and parents are requesting more programs each month. We have begun offering the program twice a week (same topic on both days), twice a month to meet the demand.

It's almost time for the field trip season! All education volunteers! It's almost field trip season! We will need educators and guides to help with our Arboretum station tours. Trips are generally on Tuesday or Thursday from 10am to noon. Stay tuned for more information about a training/refresher session/tour dates for field trip volunteers!

Interested in assisting with any of the programs offered at the Arboretum? Please contact Nichole at the Arboretum Office at 775-785-4153. Feeling unsure about taking the plunge to be a docent or an usher? You can always visit the programs you are curious about and watch from the sidelines before signing up.



Wilbur May Arboretum Upgrades 2019

By Bill Carlos

This past fall the aging retaining rock wall on the path that leads to Evans Creek Bridge was replaced. The wall had been there since early 90's and was failing. This new retaining wall compliments the other retaining wall that was installed the same year and runs along the lower path on the north side of the arboretum. It truly is a nice upgrade that is aesthetically pleasing and functional. Along with this upgrade, 6 others were made in the Arboretum.



Evans Creek Trail Retaining Wall - Before



Evans Creek Trail Retaining Wall - After

Calling All Artists, Writers, Photographers and Idea Makers!

Are there any stories, photos, poems, or events you would like to see mentioned in our newsletter? If so, we would love to hear from you. We are always looking for input, or newsletter ideas, as well as stories about your experiences at the Arboretum.

If there is something you'd like to share; here are the deadlines for the May / June 2020 Issue:

Idea Submission Date: **April 1, 2020.**

Article / Event / Photo Submission to Print Date: **April 15, 2020.**

Please Contact Bev Treadway @ Lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com for details.

Remembering Volunteer Steve Mohan



By Denise Evans

It was with great sadness that we recently shared that our dear friend and fellow Arboretum volunteer Steve Mohan has lost his battle to cancer, passing away January 3rd. This is still hard for us to believe as he was so young and the decline happened so quickly. We miss him so much.

Steve started volunteering at the Arboretum in 2016 and was a dedicated and passionate volunteer, as well as a plant and tree enthusiast with a knack for pruning. He was also such a gentle soul, and truly cared about others. Bill and I will greatly miss our visits and conversations with him, as I know many of you will too.

Bill has met with Steve Mohan's wife Patty and she expressed the desire to purchase a memorial bench and tree in Steve's honor. Because so many volunteers have come forward wanting to participate in something like this, Patty is welcoming contributions. If you would like to make a donation, we are still accepting them. You may send a check made out to the "May Arboretum" c/o Bill Carlos to 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno 89503 or hand deliver them to Bill or I. We will be sure to keep everyone updated once the bench and tree have been installed.

Meet the Staff: Nichole Tracey

Say Hello to Nichole Tracey

Nichole, originally from Brigham City Utah, grew up in Wyoming and the Bay Area. She graduated from UC Davis and moved to Reno 6 years ago to pursue her Master's Degree in Education. Nichole brings to the Arboretum a wealth of educational experience.

Nichole's love of the outdoors brought her to the Arboretum. She had previously worked as a seasonal educator for Great Basin Outdoor School and missed working in nature and teaching students. She loves the vast varieties of plants we have here at the Arboretum. Her favorite area is the wetlands. "It has a spooky looking Black Willow tree(s) that one cannot tell where the beginning or end is. This area has a nice gazebo and is teeming with wildlife and exploration opportunities I want to learn more about."

When asked about her other interests and hobbies, Nichole shared her favorites. "I love to write poems or short essays. I like to travel and learn new things and appreciate new cultures. I love to go dancing when I get a chance."

Nichole has three children, Paris 16, Levi 13 and Dylan 11. Two cats, Winston and Millie, and one adorable doggie, Butterscotch.



May Arboretum Society Plant Sale is May 9th and 10th



Mark your calendar for the May Arboretum Society's Annual Plant Sale, on Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 9th & Sunday, May 10th from 8am to 1pm. This is a wonderful way to pick some beautiful plants at great prices; all while supporting the society's fundraising efforts. Don't know what plant to buy for your garden? There is always some helpful garden experts on hand, willing to share their knowledge on what grows best in our area.

Would you like to volunteer to help with the preparations for the plant sale? Contact: Rod Dimmitt, Plant Sale Committee at roddimmitt@hotmail.com.

To make your experience even better, become a May Arboretum Society member, and come to the Member's Only preview sale on Friday May 8th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Receive 10% off your purchase for being a member when you join by May 1st. Visit mayarboreumsociety.org to join!

Special Events at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum

March 2020

- ♦ **March 11** - Little Sprouts 10am
"We Plant Seeds"
- ♦ **March 12** - Little Sprouts 10am
"We Plant Seeds"
- ♦ **March 14** - Good Nature Walk
10am "The Naked Truth About
Trees" w/Rod Haulenbeek
- ♦ **March 17** - Good Nature Walk
10am "The Naked Truth About
Trees" w/Rod Haulenbeek
- ♦ **March 19** - MAS Succulent
Container Garden Workshop
6:30pm
- ♦ **March 25** - Little Sprouts 10am
"Flower Power"
- ♦ **March 26** - Little Sprouts 10am
"Flower Power"

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29	30	31				

April 2020

- ♦ **April 7** - Little Sprouts 10am
"Bird Builds a Nest"
- ♦ **April 7** - Good Nature Walk
3pm "Feathered Friends"
Intro to birdwatching w/
Connie Osburn
- ♦ **April 8** - Volunteer Training
10am w/ Bill Carlos
"The Fundamentals of Rose
Care and Pruning"
- ♦ **April 9** - Little Sprouts 10am
"Bird Builds a Nest"
- ♦ **April 22** - Little Sprouts 10am
"Earth Day Celebration"
- ♦ **April 23** - Little Sprouts 10:30am
"Arbor Day Celebration"

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30		

Interesting Spots to Check Out

By Bev Treadway

The Bridge at Evans Creek

While you are checking out the Arboretum's new retaining wall, why not walk a little farther down to beautiful bridge at Evans Creek.

This is another one of my favorite places to be in the park. In the summer, it's cool and shady, in the spring, it's alive with circling hawks, croaking frogs, and a beautiful cattail and thistle display. The sound of the creek is soothing and helps to keep the Sierra Street traffic noises at bay.

The beautiful (and comfortable!) benches and wide deck area allow you to stretch out, read a book, meditate, play a game with your kids, or just relax.

There are so many places throughout the Arboretum to go to be inspired, but the Evans Creek Bridge area is like that secret garden you read about when you were a child.



Entering the [Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#), you can sense that there is something special here. With a diverse plant community, beautiful garden layouts, and foliage changing with the seasons, it really is the jewel of Reno, Nevada! We have opportunities for all ages to explore, learn, celebrate, and get involved. Take a look around and see what peaks your interests. Your next

